

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A cleaning treatment method for eliminating contaminant adhered to the surface of a semiconductor layer, comprising:

a cleaning treatment step of simultaneously or alternately causing an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and crystal growth source material to come into contact with the semiconductor layer.

2. (original) A cleaning treatment method for eliminating contaminant adhered to the surface of a semiconductor layer, comprising:

a cleaning treatment step of exposing the surface of the semiconductor layer to an atmosphere containing an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and crystal growth source material.

3. (original) A cleaning treatment method for eliminating contaminant adhered to the surface of a semiconductor layer, comprising:

a cleaning treatment step of simultaneously providing a first gas including an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and a second gas

including crystal growth source material to the surface of the semiconductor layer.

4. (original) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 3, wherein the first gas and the second gas are supplied in an intermittent manner.

5. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein a difference in layer thickness of the semiconductor layer before and after implementation of the cleaning treatment step is 100 nm or less.

6. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein layer thickness of the semiconductor layer is not substantially reduced during implementation of the cleaning treatment step.

7. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 5, wherein change in layer thickness of the semiconductor layer is controlled by adjusting the quantitative ratio of the etching agent and the crystal growth source material.

8. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 3, wherein when it is taken that: a symbol for rate of change of layer thickness of the semiconductor layer is positive when layer thickness increases and is negative when layer thickness decreases;

rate of change of layer thickness of the semiconductor layer during implementation of the cleaning treatment step is R ;

rate of change of layer thickness of the semiconductor layer in the case of supplying only the first gas to the semiconductor layer surface is r_1 , and

rate of change of layer thickness of the semiconductor layer in the case of supplying only the second gas to the semiconductor layer surface is r_2 ,

the amount of the first gas and the second gas supplied is adjusted in such a manner that

an absolute value for the rate of change of layer thickness becomes:

$$|R| < |r_2| < |r_1|$$

9. (original) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 8, wherein $R < 0$.

10. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 8, wherein

$$|R| \text{ is } 0.1 \text{ nm/sec or less.}$$

11. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein the crystal growth source material includes an element constituting the semiconductor layer.

12. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein the crystal growth source material includes organic metal.

13. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein the etching agent is a halogen element or compound thereof.

14. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor layer is comprised of compound semiconductor.

15. (original) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 14, wherein the semiconductor layer is comprised of a group III - V compound semiconductor.

16. (original) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 15, wherein the crystal growth source material is a compound including a group III element constituting the semiconductor layer.

17. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 15, wherein the group III element constituting the semiconductor layer is comprised of a single species.

18. (previously presented) The cleaning treatment method according to claim 15, wherein the group III element constituting the semiconductor layer is indium (In).

19. (original) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor layer at an upper part of a semiconductor substrate;

subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment; and

forming a second semiconductor layer on the first semiconductor layer,

wherein the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment includes a step of causing an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and crystal growth source material to come into contact with the surface of the semiconductor layer.

20. (original) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor layer at an upper part of a semiconductor substrate;

subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment; and

forming a second semiconductor layer on the first semiconductor layer,

wherein the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment includes a step of exposing the surface of the semiconductor layer to an atmosphere containing an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and crystal growth source material.

21. (original) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor layer at an upper part of a semiconductor substrate;

subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment; and

forming a second semiconductor layer on the first semiconductor layer,

wherein the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment includes a step of simultaneously supplying a first gas including an etching agent having an etching action with respect to the semiconductor layer and a second gas including crystal growth source material to the surface of the semiconductor layer.

22. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 21, wherein the first gas and the second gas are supplied in an intermittent manner.

23. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein a difference in layer thickness of the second semiconductor layer before and after implementation of the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment is 100 nm or less.

24. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein layer thickness of the second semiconductor layer is not substantially

reduced during implementation of the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment.

25. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 23, wherein change in layer thickness of the first semiconductor layer is controlled by adjusting the quantitative ratio of the etching agent and the crystal growth source material.

26. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 21, wherein when it is taken that:

a symbol for rate of change of layer thickness of the first semiconductor layer is positive when layer thickness increases and is negative when layer thickness decreases;

rate of change of layer thickness of the first semiconductor layer during implementation of the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment is R ;

rate of change of layer thickness of the first semiconductor layer in the case of supplying only the first gas to the first semiconductor layer surface is r_1 , and

rate of change of layer thickness of the first semiconductor layer in the case of supplying only the second gas to the first semiconductor layer surface is r_2 ,

the amount of the first gas and the second gas supplied is adjusted in such a manner that

an absolute value for the rate of change of layer thickness becomes:

$$|R| < |r_2| < |r_1|$$

27. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 26, wherein $R < 0$.

28. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 26, wherein $|R|$ is 0.1 nm/sec or less.

29. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein the crystal growth source material includes an element constituting the first semiconductor layer.

30. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein the crystal growth source material includes a metal organic.

31. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein the etching agent is a halogen element or compound thereof.

32. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein the first semiconductor layer is comprised of compound semiconductor.

33. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 32, wherein the first semiconductor layer is comprised of compound semiconductor.

34. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 33, wherein the crystal growth source material includes a group III element constituting the first semiconductor layer.

35. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 34, wherein the group III element constituting the semiconductor layer is a single species.

36. (original) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 35, wherein the group III element constituting the semiconductor layer is indium (In).

37. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein the first semiconductor layer and the second semiconductor layer are formed using vapor phase epitaxy.

38. (previously presented) The method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 19, wherein a mask is formed on the first semiconductor layer after the step of forming the first semiconductor layer, and after eliminating the mask, the step of subjecting the surface of the first semiconductor layer to cleaning treatment is implemented.

39-48. (canceled)